Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-60 (canceled)

61. (New) A method for separating and/or isolating circular nucleic acids from a bacterial crude lysate mixture wherein the mixture is treated under alkaline conditions at a pH of 8 to 12 with a solid matrix consisting essentially of a silica material in the presence of at least one chaotropic substance present at a concentration of 4-9 M.

62. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the circular nucleic acid is double stranded DNA.

63. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the mixture contains non circular nucleic acids and at least one other species of nucleic acids.

64. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the chaotropic substance is a chaotropic salt and/or the chaotropic substance is an alcohol.

65. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the silica material is a silica or glassier membrane, glass or silica in particulate form, beads or frits and/or silica-gel membranes comprising stacks of multi layer membranes.

66. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the silica material is magnetic attractable beads with a silicaceous surface.

67. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the alkaline conditions are adjusted by adding an aqueous solution of an amphoteric substance.

68. (New) The method of claim 61, performed in multi well plates.

69. (New) The method of claim 61, performed using automatic pipetting machines.

70. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the following process steps are performed:

- cell lysis
- adjustment of conditions for selective binding of plasmid DNA preventing binding of linear DNA to silica material
- selective absorption of plasmid DNA to a silica surface
- washing of the silica material
- elution of the plasmid DNA from the silica material.

71. (New) An aqueous buffer comprising 6 to 9 M sodium thiocyanate, 0 to 20 Vol.-% C_1 - C_4 alcohols and 25 to 130 mM buffer substance.

72. (New) A kit comprising the aqueous buffer of claim 71, and auxiliary materials.

73. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the circular nucleic acid is a plasmid.

74. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the mixture contains non- circular nucleic acids and at least one other species of nucleic acids selected from the group consisting of RNA, single stranded DNA, double stranded linear DNA, circular open double stranded DNA, and combinations thereof.

75. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the chaotropic substance is a thiocyanate, urea, guanidinium salt, perchlorate salt, a halide salt and/or the chaotropic substance is methanol, ethanol, n–propanol, isopropanol, n–butanol, n–pentanol, or combinations or said chaotropic substances.

76. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the silica material is a silica or glassier membrane, glass or silica in powder form, beads or frits and/or silica-gel membranes comprising stacks of several membrane layers (multi layer membranes).

77. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the silica material is magnetic attractable beads with a silica or glass-fiber surface.

78. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the alkaline conditions are adjusted by adding an aqueous solution of an amphoteric omega amino acid.

79. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the alkaline conditions are adjusted by adding an aqueous solution of an amphoteric omega amino acid to effect a pH between 8 and 12 in the resulting mixture.

80. (New) The method of claim 61, performed in multi well plates of 384 or 96 wells.

81. (New) The aqueous buffer of claim 71, wherein the C_1 - C_4 alcohols are ethanol or isopropanol and the buffer substance is a ω-amino acid.

82. (New) The kit of claim 72, wherein the auxiliary materials are columns with or without silicaceous material, suspension of silicaceous material, additional buffers, or instruction manual.

83. (New) The kit of claim 82, wherein the additional buffers are resuspension buffers, lysis buffers, washing buffers, or elution buffers.